

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TANANA 00177 120758Z

13

ACTION AF-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-10 /016 W
----- 130816
R 120630Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5997

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 0177

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, MA
SUBJ: ESTABLISHMENT OF SECURITY POSITION TANANARIVE

REFS: A) STATE 26356; B) TANANARIVE 0018

I VERY MUCH APPRECIATE DEPT'S CONSIDERATION OF ESTABLISHING
RSO POSITION TANA. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, TWO IMPORTANT FACTORS
WHICH DO NOT PRESENTLY PERMIT ME TO CONCUR WITH PROPOSAL REF A.

(A) I STRONGLY FEEL OFFICIAL AMERICAN PRESENCE IN SMALL
TANA COMMUNITY SHOULD BE KEPT IN LINE WITH LIMITED U.S. NATION-
AL INTERESTS IN MADAGASCAR. I HAVE ALREADY FELT COMPELLED TURN
DOWN IDEA OF USIA JOT FOR THAT REASON. PLANNED ADDITION OF SMALL
MARINE GUARD DETACHMENT (REFTEL B) WILL ALREADY SERIOUSLY
STRAIN PROPORTION BETWEEN SECURITY PERSONNEL AND SUBSTANTIVE
PERSONNEL. UNFORTUNATELY STATIONING OF RSO TANANARIVE WOULD
ONLY COMPOUND PROBLEM. I REALIZE FULLY NECESSITY OF INCREASING
VIGILANCE IN PROTECTION OF BOTH SECURITY INFO AND PERSONNEL,
BUT I AM CONFIDENT SMALL MARINE GUARD DETACHMENT WITH REGULAR
AND FREQUENT VISITS FROM RSO OUGHT TO BE ABLE DO JOB.

(B) RSO WOULD PROBABLY AVERAGE NO MORE THAN ONE HOUR'S WORK-
LOAD PER DAY IN TANANARIVE. IN ADDITION TO VERY LOW COST EFF-
ECTIVENESS OF SUCH POSITION, MORALE OF RSO AND OF OTHER PERS-
ONNEL WOULD SURELY BE AFFECTED ADVERSELY IF HE NOT BUSY FULL
TIME. I DO NOT SEE HOW THAT WOULD NOT POSSIBLY BE CASE EVEN IF
HE COVERED ANOTHER POST OR TWO.
MENDENHALL

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